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Edwin A. Skoch II
Registered Patent Attorney
67 Wall Street, 22nd Floor, PMB#29
New York, NY 10005-3198

DIRECT LINE: 917-693-1109
FAX: 212.943.2300
EMAIL: edskoch@inventorprotection.com

ADMITTED IN NY, WA, OR
U.S.P.T.O. REG. ATTORNEY
www.inventorprotection.com

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FAXED TO: 703-872-9306
Attention: Examiner Gwendolyn Baxter

Application No. : 10/707,437
Applicant : David Liang Mabbutt
Filed : 14 December 2003
Title of Invention : IMPROVED MOUSEPAD
Examiner : Gwendolyn Baxter
Docket No. : DMABB05F
Customer No. : 33310

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Response to 23 September 2004 Office Action

Dear Examiner Baxter:

In response to the Office action of 23 September 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 12 of this paper.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. CLAIM REJECTION - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Section 102 rejections require that a single reference teaches or enables each and every one of the claimed elements, expressly or inherently as interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art. This type of objection can be overcome by demonstrating the claims are patentably distinguishable from the prior art or by amending the claims to the same end. The Applicant here pursues both avenues.

A.) THE TEACHINGS OF GILLESPIE:

The Examiner asserts that Gillespie (# 6,125,032) teaches a mousepad with one or more connectedly attached members at or near the edge of the mousepad, which protrude in a roughly perpendicular fashion from the pad. Secondly, the Examiner asserts that the